

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 00603 231342Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 /037 W
-----231417 011553 /43

R 231133Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0492

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0603

FOLLOWING SENT SECDEF ON 12 FEB 77 REPEATED
FOR TO YOU:

QUOTE SANA 0603

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: OVIP, MASS
SUBJ: YAR CHIEF-OF-STAFF VISIT

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY DUNCAN FROM AMBASSADOR SCOTES

REF: A. USDAO SANA 222 DTG 300630Z OCT 76
B. SECDEF 5452 DTG 240137Z NOV 76
C. SECDEF 4750 DTG 221817Z JAN 76

1. I WISH TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO YOU AND GENERAL BROWN FOR DOD EFFORTS WHICH RESULTED IN EXTENSION OF AN OFFICIAL INVITATION TO YAR CHIEF-OF-STAFF LTC AHMAD AL-GHASHMI TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN MAY. LTC AL-GHASHMI, A SIMPLE SOLDIER WHO WARMLY ADMIRES THE UNITED STATES, ACCEPTED THE INVITATION FROM GENERAL BROWN WITH UNABASHED DELIGHT. PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI IS ALSO QUITE PLEASED THAT HIS CHIEF-OF-STAFF WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP STRENGTHEN MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT WITH SENIOR US MILITARY LEADERS.

2. THERE IS ONE POINT, HOWEVER, WHICH COULD DETRACT
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SERIOUSLY FROM THE FAVORABLE IMPACT WHICH THIS VISIT IS DESIGNED TO PRODUCE. I REFER TO THE STIPULATION IN REF C, PARA 4 THAT THE YAR GOVERNMENT PAY COSTS OF OVERSEAS TRANSPORTATION. WHEN THE SUBJECT CAME UP DURING BILL CLEMENTS' VISIT TO YEMEN LAST OCTOBER, I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH REQUIRED THIS INDIGENT COUNTRY TO PAY EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH AN INVITATION TO VISIT

THE UNITED STATE WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. I AM CONVINCED THAT MR. CLEMENTS' VERBAL INVITATION TO LTC AL-GHASHMI WAS MEANT TO INCLUDE PAYMEN BY USG OF ALL RELATED COSTS. IT WAS CLEARLY INTERPRETED IN THIS LIGHT BY AL-GHASHMI, WHO OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS HAS REFUSED THREE LAVISH INVITATIONS BY THE USSR. I BELIEVE THE EXCHANGE OF CABLES VIA REFERENCES A AND B CLEARLY ESTABLISHED OUR JOINT THINKING WITH DOD IN THIS REGARD.

3. OF COURSE, WE WOULD DIP INTO GRANT AID TRAINING FUNDS IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER SOURCE OF FUNDING THIS VISIT

BY CANCELLING AT LEAST ONE, AND POSSIBLE TWO, TRAINING SPACES FROM OUR ALREADY LIMITED MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YEMEN WE COULD DEFRAID THE COST OF FIRST-CLASS ROUND-TRIP TRAVEL FOR LTC AL-GHASHMI AND HIS PARTY. I THINK YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THIS IS AN OPTION OF LAST RESORT, WHICH I WOULD ONLY SUGGEST AS A MEANS OF AVOIDING THE UNACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE OF REQUIRING THE YEMENIS TO PAY FOR A TRIP WE HAVE INVITED THEM TO MAKE.

4. THIS TRIP WILL PAY MANY DIVIDENDS. IT WILL SET THE SOVIETS BACK FURTHER. IT WILL LAUNCH A NEW RELATIONSHIP HERE FOR US. WE SHOULD PAY FIST CLASS AIR FARE TO ASSURE THIS GOOD IDEA WORKS THE WAY WE WANT IT TO RATHER THAN BACKFIRING.
SCTOES

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